

Dream Catcher

Summer 2002

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New Homes Travel by Barge to Unalakleet, Alaska

Last fall, Paul Katchatag, Executive Director of the Native Village of Unalakleet Housing Authority, accepted delivery of 10 new modular homes to his village, located about 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle, on Alaska's west coast.

The homes were barged more than 800 miles to Unalakleet Village

specially designed to withstand the extreme weather conditions that are common to rural Alaska. They were also designed to be stacked and moved by barge to their permanent locations.

The three- and four-bedroom homes have a welded steel framework, with metal studs for



Ten new modular homes, built by Alaska Manufacturing Contractors, were barged to the Native Village of Unalakleet .

from Port McKenzie, near Anchorage—a 10-day trip. From the barge landing, the homes were moved over land about two miles to their permanent sites. A 7' x 10' arctic entry was built on the side of each house after it was situated.

Built by Alaska Manufacturing Contractors, the homes were

added strength. Two inches of rigid insulation provide a thermal break between the siding and interior framework. And, there are 21 inches of blown-in cellulose insulation in the floor and 28 inches in the ceiling.

Construction financing came from the First National Bank Alaska with a Title VI loan guarantee from

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Nation-Building Approach is Key to Sustainable Economic Development in Indian Country

HUD's Native eEDGE initiative and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development recently teamed up to develop a course for tribal planners called, "Strategies for Creating Sustainable Economic Development in Indian Country."

Decades of research have demonstrated to Harvard economists that tribes can enjoy sustainable economies when they take the "nation-building approach" to development. This approach sees economic development as a process. It focuses attention on asserting tribal sovereignty by laying a sound

institutional foundation, planning strategically, and taking informed action while considering the cultural needs of tribal members.

To exercise tribal sovereignty to its fullest, it is suggested that tribes develop stable and effective governing institutions. Tribes need to create a bureaucracy that can get things done. They need to have a strong and independent judiciary or other dispute resolution system. And, they need to appropriately separate politics from business management.

Professional financial, personnel, and record-keeping systems help

prevent abuses, improve performance and increase accountability.

<http://Nativeedge.hud.gov>
1-877-807-9013

Strong tribal institutions establish an economic and political environment in which investors feel secure. When investors—tribal, non-tribal, corporate, or individuals—feel secure, they are willing to put energy, time, and capital into the tribal economy.

Adopting commercial codes is another way that tribes can assert their sovereignty and, at the same time, assure investors that tribal business ventures are predictable and stable.

The two-day economic development course was presented earlier this year in Portland, Oklahoma City, and Phoenix. Instructors came from the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, HUD's Native eEDGE staff, consulting firms, the legal profession, and various officials from tribes with successful economic enterprises.

The "eEDGE" in Native eEDGE stands for economic Development, Guidance and Empowerment. The Native eEDGE website provides access to a complete inventory of Federal programs available for economic development projects in Native American communities. Information on non-Federal resources is also available via direct links from the Native eEDGE page. Electronic forms, publications and guidelines on economic development can be downloaded from the site.

NAIHC Reports on Overcrowding in Indian Country

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) released a report in February 2002 that highlights an epidemic of overcrowded, substandard Indian housing. The report, entitled, "Too Few Rooms: Residential Crowding in Native American Communities and Alaska Native Villages," was written by Dr. Mitchell Ratner, a renowned ethnological researcher, and managed by NAIHC Research Coordinator LeeAnna Arrowchis.

The report found that, in some cases, 25 to 30 people were sharing three-bedroom homes. Detrimental effects include a variety of physical health problems such as respiratory illnesses, skin conditions, alcoholism, and sleep deprivation.

Overcrowding is a bigger problem than homelessness in American Indian and Alaskan communities, NAIHC Executive Director Gary Gordon explained.

"Native Americans are reluctant to say no to relatives or those less fortunate—and thus their problem becomes one of vast overcrowding." Gordon also noted that the report documents a growing population of people living in cars, unheated storage sheds, and the like.

In terms of solutions, the report reflects an awareness that over reliance on measures of crowding can divert attention from issues that are most crucial to children and adults. Major recommendations address the need for

- ✓ more homes in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages
- ✓ support for Indian Housing Authorities, or tribally designated housing entities; and
- ✓ creating safe, stable, supportive living conditions.



Second Inter-Agency Conference on Strategic Planning for Indian Country: "Setting the Plan in Motion"

The Second Inter-Agency Conference on Strategic Planning for Indian Country: "Setting the Plan in Motion," was held May 7-9 in Orlando, Florida, at the Orlando Expo Centre.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida hosted the Conference and arranged for a reception, continental breakfasts, and a banquet luncheon. Mitchell Cypress, Acting Chairman of the Seminole Tribe, welcomed participants to the Orlando area, and Seminole tribal member Bobby Henry gave the opening invocation in the Miccosukee language.

Federal partners supporting the Conference included the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Indian Health Service.

In addition to the agencies already listed, exhibitors at the Conference included the U.S. Census Bureau, the AMERIND Risk Management Corporation, the Association for Tribal Heritage, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the National American Indian Housing Council, the National Fair Housing Alliance, and Native American Management Services, Inc.

Federal officials collaborated with tribal representatives and designed a dynamic agenda for the Conference. Topics discussed at break-out sessions included Environmental Compliance and Infrastructure Development; Housing Program Administration; Tribal Economic Development; Healthy Tribal Communities; Safeguarding



Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing and Chad Smith, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation

Tribal Legal Rights; and Strategic Housing Development.

The sessions focused on real-world applications of tribal planning concepts. Tribal leaders and planners left the Conference better equipped to make decisions that will have immediate and lasting impacts on their communities.

Plenary sessions featured respected leaders and nationally recognized experts who spoke about the importance of strategic planning and good governance in Indian Country. Dr. Ted Jojola, Professor at the University of New Mexico School

of Architecture and Planning; Byron Mallot, President and CEO of First Alaskans; Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation; Chester Carl, Executive Director of the Navajo Housing Authority and Chairman of the National American Indian Housing Council; Gary Hartz, a Director at the Indian Health Service and Assistant Surgeon General; Ted L. Key, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs at HUD; and Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for



William Cypress and Gordon Wareham, Seminole Singers

Public and Indian Housing at HUD were among the distinguished speakers who addressed the conferees.

USDA Rural Housing Demonstration Program Funds Available

USDA's Rural Housing Service has \$1.5 million in Section 502 mortgage funds for the development of innovative housing units and systems. Applications will be considered in the order submitted. See the Federal Register, 4/29/02, pp. 20953-56. Contact an RD State Office or Gloria L. Denson, RHS, (202) 720-1474.

Tribal Employment & Training Programs Combine Funds Under “477”

Public Law 102-477, also known simply as “the 477 program,” is the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992. It authorizes tribal governments to combine federal formula funds related to employment under a single plan, a single budget, and a single reporting system.

The result is a radical reduction in paperwork. Instead of keeping separate records for every individual program, a 477 tribe keeps one set of client records and submits just one plan and one report to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Time saved is devoted to client services.

Tribes are not required to participate in the 477 program, but those that do have found that 477 significantly improves the effectiveness of their employment and job training services.

If a tribe decides to participate in 477, it submits a plan to the BIA describing what programs will be combined and how the tribe will integrate the services involved. The plan must be accompanied by a tribal resolution supporting participation. Once approved, the plan can last for three years, or be modified by tribal request at any time.

“477 tribes,” and those interested in participating, have formed the P.L.

102-477 Tribal Work Group. The Group meets quarterly with staff from the federal agencies whose programs may be included in 477.

Technical assistance on 477 issues is also available through the Tribal Work Group. For information, call Bonnie DeWeaver on the 477 toll-free hot line at 888-469-5978. Or, contact either of the Work Group’s Co-Chairs:

Mr. Leo Cummings
477 Director
Three Affiliated Tribes
PO Box 597
New Town, ND 58763
(701) 627-4756

Ms. Sharon Olsen
Employment & Training Manager
Tlingit Haida Central Council
320 West Willoughby
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 463-7134

P.L. 102-477 applies to formula-funded, employment and training programs. Tribes decide themselves which programs to include in their 477 plans. Programs currently eligible to be included in a 477 plan are:

- **Department of Labor Programs:** Title IV-A - JTPA/Workforce Investment Act; Title II-B-Summer Youth/WIA Youth; and Welfare-to-Work;

- **Department of Health and Human Services Programs:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; the Native Employment Works (NEW) Program; and Child Care.

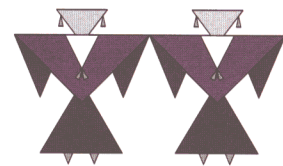
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs Programs:** Higher Education; Adult Vocational Training; Job Relocation; Adult Education; Johnson-O’Malley; General Assistance; and the Tribal Works Employment Program.

- **Department of Education’s** Native American Vocational Technology/Education Program.

Amendments made to 102-477 in December 2000, allow tribes to spend 25 percent of their 477 funds for economic development projects.

Ms. Lynn Forcia, Chief of BIA’s Job Placement and Training Office, has worked with the 477 program since its inception in 1992. She says, “477 relieves tribes of so much of the paperwork that used to be required. It allows them to spend more of their time doing what they do best—helping their clients.”

Ms. Forcia can be reached at 202-219-5270.



Community Facilities Grants Available from USDA

Nonprofits, public entities, and tribal governments can apply for grants from a community facilities initiative for rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. The deadline for the second funding round this year is August 16. Visit USDA’s Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.htm> or contact your State’s Rural Development Office for more information. Or, contact Joseph Ben-Israel, at 202-720-1490 or jbenisra@rdmail.rural.usda.gov.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Employment & Training Programs

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, headquartered in Shawnee, Oklahoma, provides employment and training services to clients in the surrounding five-county area. Last year, about 1,700 clients were served, according to Employment and Training Director, Carol Clay Levi.

"We consider ourselves a stepping stone to self-sufficiency," Ms. Levi says. About a dozen full-time staffers operate out of tribal headquarters and four satellite offices. They provide vital services to the economically disadvantaged, the unemployed, and the underemployed. Among these services are career counseling, job placement, adult vocational and technical education, and specialized social services.

Ms. Levi's staff also provides services to youth, ranging from summer enrichment camps to actual employment placements. The youth summer camps emphasize lessons in life skills, financial management, computer learning, and the prevention of substance abuse.

A tribally owned computer learning lab is available to all program participants. General Educational Development (GED) tests are administered at the lab; 35 GEDs have

been awarded since 2001. A tribally run daycare facility for children of working parents is also an integral part of the employment program.

Administering these programs through the P.L. 102-477 Program, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation combines formula grant funds from four different federal agencies into a single, comprehensive service



program. Ms. Levi explained, "The 477 program has made the process easier for our clients and for us. Before 477, a client could be sent to several different offices, and end up filling out several applications with almost identical information. Now, we have a one-stop shop."

Recent amendments to P.L. 102-477 allow tribes to use up to 25 percent of their 477 funds for economic development purposes. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was the

first tribe to take advantage of the amendments and used 477 money last year to pay salaries at the new, tribally owned Firelake Discount Foods store.

Firelake, one of the largest grocery stores in Oklahoma, won the



coveted Business of the Year award from the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce. More than 250 jobs were created when the store opened.

Funds from the 477 were also used to hire and train seasonal workers on the tribal farm. The mechanically harvested crop from the farm, sweet potatoes, was then sold through the Firelake grocery store. This is a good example of how tribal programs can be integrated under 477 to provide maximum benefits to the tribe as a unit and to individual tribal members.



Dedicated staff of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's
Employment and Training Office

Standing, l-r: Zack Morris, Education Counselor; Chris Jones and Chad Kaminski, Youth Counselors; Lenora Tiger, Admissions Clerk; Melinda Cammett and Brenda Tingler, Employment Counselors.

Seated, l-r: Carol Clay Levi, 477 Employment and Training Director; Judy Shed, Native American Vocational Program Coordinator; Debbie Montgomery, Social Service Coordinator; and Brooke Beasley, Abstinence Coordinator.

Not pictured is the Assistant Director of Employment and Training, Margaret Zientek.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Offers Funds to Non-Profits

A funding priority of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is youth and education programs that support healthy infant, child, and youth development.

The Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations that, for example, help children enter school ready to learn, increase adolescent achievement, or prepare young adults for meaningful work or further education. The Foundation is especially interested in funding creative projects that can serve as local models and can be replicated.

This grants program could be an opportunity to start a pre-school, an

after-school homework club for older kids, or a technical-skills training program coordinated with a high school, vo-tech school, or a tribal college.

Grant applicants are encouraged to submit their requests electronically using the Foundation's online application, available at <http://www.wkkf.org/Grants/Application.asp>.

The Kellogg Foundation does not have specific deadlines. Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis, and they are reviewed by staff members in the order that they are received.

Environmental Protection Agency Offers Research Grants

The EPA is inviting academic institutions, non-profits, tribal organizations, and tribal, state and local governments to apply for research support grants of up to \$150,000 per year for up to three years.

Research is needed on lifestyle and cultural practices of tribal populations and risks from toxic substances in the environment. Research projects should address the development of exposure and effects assessment methods that can be broadly applied across geographic regions and tribal populations, or, risk management strategies and options that will lead to reduction in risk from exposure.

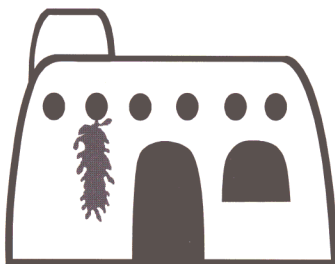
Application deadline is July 10, 2002. For more information, write to Nigel Fields, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Washington, DC; 20460; call 202-688-1981; or email: fields.nigel@epa.gov. The website at http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/02trib_risk.html.

Unalakleet Homes, (continued from page 1)

HUD. Financing for the homes' sales will be provided by First National Bank Alaska, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and USDA's Rural Housing Service.

IHA Management Systems provided technical assistance to the Unalakleet Housing Authority, enhancing its accounting systems and developing its policies and procedures. According to Mr. Katchatag, this was an intensive and time-consuming process involving many meetings at the bank. Eventually, however, the hard work paid off.

Mr. Katchatag's advice to other Indian housing authorities interested in the Title VI Loan Program is to ensure that the community has the economy to undertake a commitment for the repayment of the mortgage loan.



Federal Aviation Administration's Native American/Alaska Native Internships

The FAA is recruiting for undergraduate and graduate Native American and Alaska Native students who are interested in an intern program. Students will receive a stipend and assistance with housing, incidental expenses, and transportation from their homes or schools to duty locations for 15 weeks during the fall semester, September through December 2002.

The FAA is a technical organization responsible for every aspect of the aviation industry; thus, they are looking for students who are majoring in engineering,

computer science, math, and business administration. Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0. The application deadline for the fall term is July 10.

Interested students are invited to email a copy of their resume and transcript to Mai.Nguyen@faa.gov. For more information, contact Mrs. Mai Nguyen, Native American/ Alaska Native Program Manager; FAA/AHD-200; 800 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC; 20591. Call 202-267-7666 or fax, 202-267-7737.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2002

June 11-12 - The 4th Annual Indian Health Service's "Women's Leadership National Conference," in Scottsdale, AZ. Speakers will include Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and actress Elaine Miles. Email anne.susan@mail.ihs.gov for more information.

June 16 - The Athabascan Languages Conference & Workshop on Athabascan Lexicography, Fairbanks, AK. Sponsored by the Alaska Native Language Center. For information, call Gary Holton at 907-474-6585.

June 16-19 - National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Session, Radisson Inn Bismarck, 800 S. Third Street, Bismarck, ND.

June 17-19 - National American Indian Housing Council Convention in San Diego, CA. To register, visit naihc.indian.com, or call 888-526-1242.

June 23-25 - National Fair Housing Alliance's annual conference at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. For information, call 202-898-1661 or visit www.nationalfairhousing.org.

June 25-25 - NAHASDA Self-Monitoring Assessment Course, sponsored by HUD, at the Hilton OKC Northwest. For information, contact John Madore at 800-226-9999 or 202-667-3002, ext. 128.

June 26-28 - National Youth Summit, an interagency event sponsored by the US Dept. of Health & Human Services, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. Four workshop tracks are: Supportive Families and Communities; Safe and Healthy Lives; Economic Self-Sufficiency and Success; Settings and Opportunities for Development Service.

June 27-28 - Indian Agriculture Export Readiness Seminar, at the 7 Clans Casino, Thief River Falls, MN. For information, contact Matt Pollock at 406-259-3525, or visit the Intertribal Agriculture Council's website at <http://www.i-a-c-online.com>.

June 27-28 - Interagency Summit on Positive Youth Development;

Washington, DC. Nationwide video connections to plenary events.

July 2002

July 9-10 - Training on the HUD Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program at the Double Tree Hotel Downtown, in Boise, ID.

July 17-20 - World Eskimo-Indian Olympics at the Big Dipper Ice Arena in Fairbanks, Alaska. Traditional athletic games. For more information, call WEIO at 452-6646.

July 25-27 - First Annual Financial Management Professionals Conference, hosted by the Local Initiative Support Corporation. Location TBA. For information, call Melody Irvin at 212-455-9594.

August 2002

August 2-6 - The National Institute for Native Leadership in Higher Education, sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, at the Hyatt REgency Tamaya Resort, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. Contact: Linda Chavez at 505-277-2614.

August 4-10 - 2002 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, in Calgary, Canada. Sponsored by First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium. For information call 403-258-1775 or email wipce@fnahec.org.

September 2002

Sept. 2-6 - National Indian Health Board presents, "Healing Our Spirits Worldwide" at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM.

Sept. 4-6 - Healing Ourselves, Healing Our Spirits, Healing Our World: A Call to Conference by the National Indian Council on Aging. Albuquerque Convention Center, NM. For more information, call 505-292-2001.

Sept. 9-10 - Third Annual Urban Indian Summit, in Milwaukee, WI. Sponsored by the Indian Community School and the

Urban Indian Education Research Center. For more information, call 414-345-3060 or email warner_l@ics-milw.org

Sept. 16-19 - "Development and Modernization Program Management" presented by the National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002. For information, call 800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

Sept. 24-26 - National Forum on Health Disparity Issues For American Indians and Alaska Natives, sponsored by the Office of Minority Health; in Denver, CO; Adam's Mark Hotel. For information, call 800-303-3672.

Sept. 25-26 - Indian Agriculture Export Readiness Seminar, at the Quinault Beach Resort, Ocean Shores, WA. Contact Matt Pollock at 406-259-3525 or visit <http://www.i-a-c-online.com>

Sept. 25-27 - National Tribal Economic Development Summit, Washington, DC;

Sept. 26-29 - SACNAS National Conference, in Anaheim, CA. Sponsored by the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. For information, call 831-459-0170 or email info@sacnas.org.

Sept. 30 - October 3 - "Introduction to Indian Housing Management," presented by the National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002. For information, call 800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754

October 2002

Oct. 14-17 - "Environmental Compliance," presented by the National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002, in Albuquerque, NM. For information, call 800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

Oct. 21-23 - AMERIND's 16th Annual Meeting & Expo, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, in Orlando, FL. For information, call 800-352-3496.





world wide web:
www.codetalk.fed.us

Dream Catcher
is published by
The Department of Housing and
Urban Development
Office of Native American Programs
451 Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20410



Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Native American Programs
451 Seventh Street SW, Room 4126
Washington, DC 20204

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